

# North Augusta



## South Carolina's Riverfront

### MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2021

*Briton S. Williams, Mayor*

*J. Robert Brooks, Councilmember  
Pat C. Carpenter, Councilmember  
Jenafer F. McCauley, Councilmember  
David W. McGhee, Councilmember  
Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember  
Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember*

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

#### **STUDY SESSION**

The Study Session of May 10, 2021 for the City Council of the City of North Augusta, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Mayor Williams at 6:00 p.m. and also streamed online for public viewing at the City Facebook page: "City of North Augusta – Public Information" and City YouTube page: "City of North Augusta Public Information." The Study Session adjourned 7:38 p.m.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meetings was sent out by email to the current maintained "Agenda Mailout" list consisting of news media outlets and individuals or companies requesting notification. Notice of the meetings was also posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Members present were Mayor Williams, Councilmembers Brooks, Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, Presnell, and Toole.

Also in attendance were James S. Clifford, City Administrator; Rachelle Moody, Assistant City Administrator; Kelly F. Zier, City Attorney; Cammie T. Hayes, Chief Financial Officer; Thomas C. Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Richard L. Meyer, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; James E. Sutton, Director of Public Services; John C. Thomas, Director of Public Safety; Lillian E. (Libby) Hodges, Director of Planning and Development; J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources; Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

**ITEM 1. CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Items for the May 17, 2021 Council Meeting- Council Discussion**

City Administrator, Jim Clifford, led Council's discussion of items for the May 17, 2021 regular meeting. With the consensus of Council, a proclamation for Public Works Week will be added to the meeting.

Please see ATTACHMENT #1 for a copy of the proposed DRAFT agenda.

**ITEM 2. DEPARTMENT DETAILS:**

City department directors and managers provided departmental updates.

Please see ATTACHMENT #2 for a copy of the "Department Details for May 10, 2021."

**ITEM 3. MAYOR'S MATTERS:**


(A) Mayor Williams shared some items related to his "*Mayor's 100 Day Plan*" for the City of North Augusta. Beginning May 17<sup>th</sup>, regular City Council meetings will continue as scheduled on the first and third Monday of each month; however, meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. Study Session will be scheduled on alternate Monday's and will begin at 6:00 p.m. The first "POWER HOUR" will be scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 7 and will be held on the first Monday of each month. Procedures for the "POWER HOUR" will be announced next week. Mayor Williams will begin posting a VLOG this week. The first "Meet the Mayor" event will be Thursday, May 20. Councilmembers in teams of two will visit downtown merchants during Third Thursday from 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The second "Meet the Mayor" event will be held in June the date and time is yet to be determined, but should take place on the east side of the City. Mayor Williams reminded citizens that May 9-14 was National Law Enforcement Week.

(B) Mayor Williams introduced the Focus Item: Briefing and Preliminary Discussion of H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Jim Clifford, City Administrator, briefed Council on the information available through Friday, May 7, 2021 and led Council in a preliminary discussion of its impact on the City. He noted the Federal government had released another one hundred fifty page document related to ARP this afternoon, May 10, 2021. He will come back to Council with more detailed information after he and staff review the document.

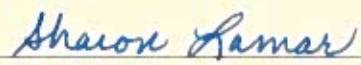
Please see ATTACHMENT #3B for a copy of the American Rescue Plan presentation.

The study session adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 17 DAY OF  
May 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Briton S. Williams  
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Lamar  
City Clerk



**DRAFT AGENDA: CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 17, 2021 – Municipal Center – 100 Georgia Avenue, 3rd Floor - Council Chambers**

The regular City Council meeting will be streamed for public viewing online at:

- “City of North Augusta – Public Information” on [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com)
- “City of North Augusta Public Information” on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)

*CITIZEN COMMENTS: Citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council on each item listed on this agenda. The Mayor will call for comments prior to Council’s discussion. Speakers shall give their name and address in an audible tone of voice for the records. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza at the entrance to the Council Chambers. Speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic should complete the form. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.*

*CITIZEN ASSISTANCE: Individuals needing special assistance or sign interpreter to participate in the meeting, please notify the Administration Department 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Study Session and Council Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2021 and Study Session Minutes of May 10, 2021

**NEW BUSINESS**

5. **FINANCE:** Audit Review – Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2020 – Presentation to Council

6. **CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor Pro Tempore – Selection by Council

7. **ZONING:** Ordinance No. 2021-05 – To Amend the Zoning Map of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina by Rezoning ±51.20 Acres of Land Owned by Aiken County Board of Education, Aiken County Tax Parcel #023-05-01-003, from PD, Planned Development, to P, Public Use; Ordinance – First Reading

8. **PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM:** Resolution No. 2021-18 – Accepting Gift of Gazebo

9. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

10. **PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

A. **Citizen Comments** - *At this time, citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council regarding matters not listed on the agenda. Speakers shall give their name and address in an audible tone of voice for the records. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza at the entrance to the Council Chambers. Speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic should complete the form. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.*

B. **Council Comments** –

11. **ADJOURNMENT**



**DEPARTMENT DETAILS***for May 10, 2021***FINANCE:**

- Utility Customer Service Related-Cycle 1 Disconnect on 5/18-5/19; Cycle 2 Due Date 5/20
- Follow-Up has begun on delinquent tax receipts for tax year 2020.
- Follow-Up has begun on delinquent business license renewals.

**PUBLIC SERVICES:**

- The replacement of 1,294-feet of defective 16-inch pipe approved by City Council on April 5, 2021 was completed on May 7, within budget.
- May 17-21- Utility technicians are scheduled to replace a defective 12-inch water valve near 400 E. Buena Vista Avenue and realign an offset 12-inch water line located along Riverside Boulevard. The westbound lane along East Buena Vista Avenue between Riverside Boulevard and Brookside Drive may be temporarily reduced to one lane on May 18 and May 21, 2021, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

- A Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. The agenda for that meeting will go out Thursday. They will hold their first discussion about the Comprehensive Plan update project at the study session starting at 6pm in Council Chambers. All meetings will be in person.
- We have several upcoming cases for the BZA. That agenda will be issued May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- RFP for the mowing/remediation services should be awarded this week; this should help streamline addressing properties that are out of compliance once the notification period has expired.
- The Georgia Avenue Traffic Calming Study has made some progress with SCDOT. Thank you to Tom Zeaser and his group for forging the way with his projects. We hope that will be out to bid in the coming weeks. Several future studies will be subject to this same SCDOT review process.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Sgt. Andy Cook update: He is still hospitalized but for the most part, he is headed in the right direction. The Cooks and the Department of Public Safety appreciate the generous support of the community during this difficult time.
- This is National Police Officers Week. Community Events this week:
  - First Baptist Church of North Augusta to host "A View From The Blue." May 16th at the 10:30am service. Followed by lunch provided by Feeding The Fearless at 12:00pm
  - Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> "Coffee with an Officer" at Stone Roastery from 7am- 5pm.
- CALEA re-accreditation will begin in June; staff continue to work to prepare for the on-site visit.
- Station 1 update- Underwater storage approval been obtained. Meetings are every Thursday at the station site with Cpt. Williams and Mark Chostner covering updates with construction.

#### PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM:

- Work began this morning on the Riverview Park Adaptive Playground surface. Kompan Playground Inc. is installing playground turf over the existing poured in place rubber surface. Work is scheduled to be completed by May 29.
- Repair work on the playground equipment and picnic tables at Creighton Park has been completed with the exception of the large piece of playground equipment. PRT is waiting on the manufacturer of the piece to determine if it can be repaired or needs to be removed.
- Riverview Park will be the site this Saturday afternoon to first round action in the South Carolina High School League playoffs as North Augusta High School Baseball team hosts Beaufort High School and the North Augusta High School Girls Softball team hosts May River High School. Both games are scheduled to start at 1pm. Riverview Park will also be hosting Top Gun travel baseball tournament Saturday & Sunday.
- Hometown Hero Banners will be going up in downtown North Augusta just as soon as the 6 new banners arrive. That arrival is expected this week.

#### ENGINEERING:

- Knobcone Sidewalk TAP Grant
- Greenway Extension TAP Grant
- Downtown Greenway Connector Update
- Municipal Center Flagpole Maintenance RFP

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

City of North Augusta Vacancy Notifications-

**Finance Manager – Finance**

Grade: 27

Salary/Pay Rate: \$66,800/year

Closing: 05/14/2021

**Firefighter – Public Safety**

Grade: UN

Salary/Pay Rate: \$9.43/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

**[Position Spotlight Video](#)**

**Grounds Worker II – Property Maintenance**

Grade: 6

Salary/Pay Rate: \$14.03/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

**[Position Spotlight Video](#)**

**Utility Worker I – Water Operations**

Grade: 4

Salary/Pay Rate: \$12.30/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

**[Position Spotlight Video](#)**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

- Blood Drive for the American Red Cross on Wednesday, 12 May at the NA Community Center
- Coffee with Officers on Thursday, 13 May from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Stone Roastery @ 502 Belvedere-Clearwater Road
- NA Chamber State of the Community presentation at the Crowne Plaza on Thursday, 13 May at 11:30 a.m.
- Next City Council meeting will be scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, 17 May (if consensus by Council at tonight's study session).



# City Council Study Session: American Rescue Plan (ARP)

MAY 10, 2021

## Background

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 became law on March 11, 2021
- There are numerous provisions in ARP, but information presented tonight will be focused on local government funding
- ARP provides \$350 billion dollars in emergency funding for state, local, and other governments
  - \$130 billion allocated for local governments
- City of North Augusta is **estimated** to receive \$8,910,000
  - Final amount not yet released from U.S. Treasury
  - Funds will be delivered in two tranches, 50% per tranche, one year apart
- Flow of funding: Federal government > State of SC > City of North Augusta
- Guidance provided publicly to date is **preliminary** and subject to change

## Funding Restrictions

- Funds cannot be used to directly or indirectly offset tax reductions, to delay a tax, or delay a tax increase
- Funds cannot be deposited into any pension fund
- Funds must be spent by December 31, 2024

## Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC)

Funds should be used to...

- Provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency.
- Make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.
- Respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.
- Respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality.

<https://www.masc.sc/Pages/legislative/American-Rescue-Plan.aspx>



## Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)

- Replenishing reserves used to offset revenue declines during the pandemic should be given high priority to rebuild financial flexibility/stability and restore fiscal resiliency.
- Use of ARP funds to cover operating deficits caused by COVID-19 should be considered temporary and additional budget restraint may be necessary to achieve/maintain structural balance in future budgets.
- Investment in critical infrastructure is a good use of funds because it is a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to long-term assets that provide benefits over many years.
- Care should be taken to avoid creating new programs or add-ons to existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment.

[www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org)

## City Staff Assumptions

- Estimated amounts of disbursement will be close to actual disbursement
- First 50% of ARP funding should be received by September 1
- Some Aiken and Edgefield County ARP funds may be used in support of and/or aligned with North Augusta projects, but should not be part of City's base spending plan
- U.S. Treasury **final** guidelines for expenditure of funds forthcoming in May (guidance issued to date is only preliminary)

## City Staff Initial Recommendations

- Build preliminary expenditure plan based on ARP guidance issued to date:
  - #1 priority of revenue replacement and fund replenishment
  - Identify infrastructure needs and projects that can be quickly executed
- First funding tranche recommended expenditures:
  - Revenue replacement & fund replenishment
  - Infrastructure projects that can be quickly executed
  - One-time expenditures
- Second funding tranche recommended expenditures:
  - Additional infrastructure projects as needed
  - Other one-time expenditures after a full year of Council deliberation and priority setting
- Actual expenditures should be based on final guidance issued by U.S. Treasury

6/10/21

NORTH AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION: ARP

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## Discussion